

Subsurface Resources

Management Intent

The study area covered by this plan is closed to locatable mineral entry and the issuance of coal prospecting permits. The area has little or no potential for hardrock minerals or coal, and surface mining is not compatible with agriculture or settlement. The lands within the study area that are not slated for agricultural or residential development are stream corridors and wetlands and their buffers. They have little or no known mineral potential, and have important fish and wildlife, water resource, and recreation values.

The study area is open to oil and gas exploration and leasing.

Classification

No land within the study area will be classified as Mineral Land. Oil and gas leasing may occur on land in any classification.

Planned Actions

Portions of the study area were included within the boundaries of the State of Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale 40, held in September, 1983. The oil and gas tracts were all located on borough lands. The portion of Township 16 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian that is within the study area was included within a lease that was purchased by a private individual.

Management Guidelines

1. Oil and gas lease tracts that coincide with agricultural tracts are subject to special restrictions on surface entry and facility siting. Plans of operation for oil and gas leases that are developed after the agricultural tracts are sold will be reviewed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Whenever feasible and prudent, drill pads and other oil and gas facilities will be located on non-class II and III soils.
2. Wetland areas are open to winter seismic and other non surface disturbing activities. Deep drilling and associated production activities will not be allowed in wetland areas if a feasible and prudent alternative exists. This will allow for minimal disturbance to the environmental integrity of the wetlands. All actions within wetlands will be subject to the appropriate Corp of Engineers Permits.